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SUPPLY ISSUE

PM to meet petrol dealers

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PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to meet stakeholders tomorrow to discuss petrol and diesel supply.

He said he would discuss the matter with Petrol Dealers Association and petrol station operators to find the best way to resolve the matter.

"They will meet us and we will discuss with them. We will together find the solutions," he said after the Bersatu annual general assembly yesterday.

On claims that several petrol stations had closed their operations without getting approval from the authorities, Dr Mahathir said he would look into the matter.

Earlier, Bumiputera Petrol Dealers Association of Malaysia president Datuk Abu Samah Bachik expressed concern that consumers might face difficulties obtaining petrol and diesel as petrol stations were expected to run dry by tomorrow.

He said this stemmed from petrol station operators' refusal to increase their reserve supply by the end of this month.

Previously, the Finance Ministry announced that the retail price of petroleum products, including RON95, would be lower

from tomorrow onwards.

Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng said this followed the move by the government to streamline the price of petroleum product prices on a monthly basis, in line with the global market price of crude oil.

Saying this move would benefit consumers, Lim announced that the government would return to a weekly float price system for RON95 from tomorrow.

On improving the welfare of smallholders in the oil palm and rubber sectors, Dr Mahathir said they should diversify their crops, which could cushion the impact of low commodity prices.

"We want small or big estates to allocate a plot (of land) to grow agriculture produce, including vegetables and fruits and others.

"If the price of commodity drops, they still can generate revenue from the alternative agriculture produce."

He said this when asked to comment on Armada chief Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman's calls to take action against the European Union for banning Malaysia's palm oil.